

and steam boats of the North, for example, is but a record of the prosperity of the community, a prosperity which has steadily kept pace with their extension.

The progress of such improvements, however, are often so slow that their action upon the condition of the people is not immediately apparent, but there are cases where immediate results stand in such marked contrast with the previous prostration that we cannot fail to observe it.

Of such examples there are none, perhaps, on a broad scale, more to our present purpose than those, the details of which are to be found in the reports of the committee of the Parliament of Great Britain on the influence of such improvements upon the condition of a part of her own population, and upon the productive power of capital. Referring for the details of the testimony taken before that committee, to the reports for the year 1830. It may suffice here to condense them from a statement given in the year book for 1831.

The intercourse between Liverpool and Dublin prior to the year 1824, was maintained by means of the ordinary sailing packets, and a week might be calculated as a fair average of the passage. At present, steam packets are employed, and there is a capital of £671,000 invested in forty-two steamers, of 8423 tons. The trip is now performed in fourteen hours. The results of this intercourse are most useful and most curious. The small inland trader now finds his way into the English market with what he has to sell, and he buys there what he wishes to retail in his own district. Steam navigation has given to Ireland the best and dearest market for her agricultural produce of all sorts; the best, because the cheapest market from whence to bring manufactured goods in return. Traders now bring from the manufacturing districts of England the smallest quantity of any description of goods, and this is effected in two or three days. The effect is of the last importance with reference to the quantity of business done with the same capital, not one fourth of the capital is now wanting to carry on the same extent of business, and this, it is believed by the most intelligent of the witnesses, will the abundant production of the finest fruits and vegetables, long before they can be brought to maturity, near our great